Josenhans Corner

No. 42

The man standing by the horse and wagon is Mr. Frendenberg of Cape May Road and standing next are Mr. + Mrs. Josenhans and Mrs Shrunk in the back. The boys in the picture are John, Will + Millard Josenhans and Jay Shunks. The man to the right is Henry Lawnstein with the horse. She are in the center with the horse is Alex Lawnstein the other men were hired help.

Part of this building was built with wooden pegs at the time Easton Ave. road was built. More was added to the building later on.

(Info received from Irene Milke nee Josenhans)



HOW IT USED TO BE: This is view of Josenhans' corner between 1910 and 1913. This spot was a landmark then as it is now. Note the horses in the photo. They were still in use at that time altho one auto can be seen at the extreme right edge of the pictu

Mar. 7, 1973

Mr. Baumgartner,

I am sending you two old receipts I thought you may be interested in they were made from the originals, the one from Mrs. Mace did not come out clear so I wrote on the bottom the name, date, and amount.

I have the glass case I told you about in the garage and also a picture I showed to Mrs. Hensler which she was interested in for the society.

I would like to see you get the building soon as I might get some more things of interest,

Sincerely,
Mrs. Dane Milke.

C. & P. PHONE, ROCK. 6 R. 3

ROSSVILLE, MD., October 6 1911

Mr Jno W. R. Townsend Jan Clerk

BOUGHT OF **FRED'K W. JOSENHANS**

"THE BUSY CORNER"

DEALER IN GENERAL MERCHANDISE

Our Specialty O. A. Flour
Fancy Superior Association
Reliable Brands

EASTERN AVENUE, Extended

2 1/2 Beer			2.00
20 sandwiches			1.00
25 cigars			.75
1/2 [illegible]			.50
1/4 [illegible] Beer			1.00
40 sandwiches			2.00
1/2 oz Soft			1.00
50 Cigars			1.50
1 Whiskey			1.50
1/4 Beer Pete			2.00
[illegible]			[illegible]
1 Memorial			5.00
2 1/2 Beer			4.00
100 cigars			3.00
1/2 oz Soft			1.00
200 Postals			2.00
4 quarts [illegible]			4.00
150 cigars			4.50
			$ 41.25

Notice the prices all that time.

Rossville, Md., 190

M

TO DR. C. V. MACE, DR.

To Professional Services from to date $

" " previous to " $

Received payment $

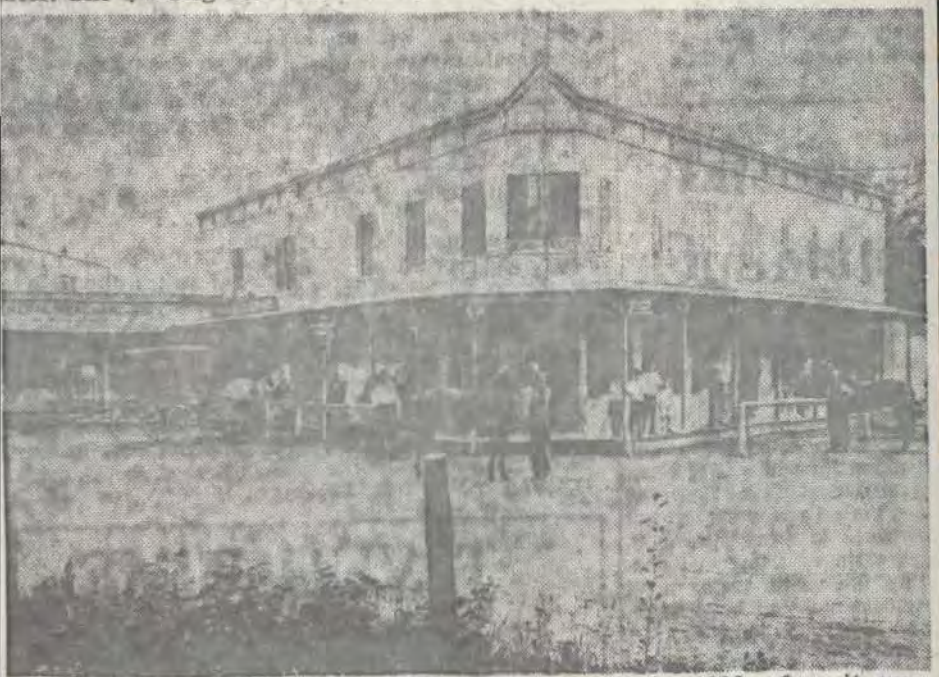
DR C. V. MACE

News & Post Dec. 28, 57

Hi Neighbor! - ESSEX



JOSENHANS CORNERS — PRESENT. This is the scene of the present intersection nearly 50 years later. The building has been rebuilt, automobiles have replaced horses, but the character of the store—and of the corner as the meeting place of Essex, hasn't changed a bit.



JOSENHANS CORNERS—PAST. This is how the famous store at Eastern avenue and Back River Neck road looked in 1908 when it was known to some as "The Busy Corner," but to most as Josenhans.

HERITAGE SOCIETY
of ESSEX & MIDDLE RIVER
113 RIVERSIDE RD.
No. 42



CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS PICTURE? One of our readers supplies this shot and says it is a view of Josenhan's Corner sometime between the years of 1910-1913. However, we cannot exactly place the buildings. The structure in the middle may be Leggett's store. It is interesting to note that this area was called "Rossville" back in those days. Also noteworthy is the old streetcar on the right, whose sign reads "Middle River."



Built 1909

THE FIRST DEMOCRATIC CLUB IN THIS AREA. This is a picture of a building that is now a part of Josenhan's store. Oldtimers tell us that the first Democratic club organized in this area met here. You will note that the poster in front dates this photo to 1913, and it appears to us that the tickets for the affair were sold at 15 cents each.

An interesting sidelight is that the Josenhan children rode to school in the old wagon in the left side of the photo. The Josenhans also had a contract to haul the teachers in this wagon to the school house some 2 miles away on Back River Neck road.

Inside the fence was a flower garden

Streetcars + Jitneys

April 5, 1969

Info from Irene Milke

Bill Moore owned first streetcar company.

13 jitney buses from Josenhans Corner to Rocky Point — and other beaches + picnic grounds. These buses were owned by individuals:

Mr. McDonnell
Harry, George, Henry and Otto Altevogt
Harry Mells - (had 1 arm -)
George Baker
Leroy Wright
"Coca Cola"



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Ypsa 1913
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THE OLD WEBER PLACE, on Eastern avenue and Dundalk Ave. Noel Road, where Peters' restaurant now stands. This picture was taken 50 years or more ago. An interesting side light is that the man in the carriage, at right, was the only law-enforcement officer in these parts. The only thing known about him is that his name was [illegible] and that everyone referred to him as "Sheriff".

+ Hammonds Run Rd

The Sheriff's name was James Woods and some of his family are still in the neighborhood.

Jounbars Hall was built in the year 1910 and was called Rossville Academy as the P.O. at that time was Rossville and later changed to Stemmers Run. Henry Norris was our mail man for many years and came around in horse + ~~Buggy~~ buggy.

Dancing classes were held by Herbert Feldpausch, the dancing master, and later by Mr. Elton, he had a dancing school in Highlantown also, that is why the name was Rossville Academy. Young people came from miles around in horse + buggy, some walked as there was no means of transportation.

The Hall was used for many purposes, + entertainments
suppers, banquets, meetings from different organizations. and church. The first Dem. club in the fifteenth district was held over the old store and also the Rep. club, after the new Hall was built meetings were held there, the Dem. club was called the Walter R. Townsend Dem. club, and you will notice the sign 15¢ admission for a dance or ball as they called them.

Mr + Mrs. Henry Homberg celebrated their 50 th. Anniversary in the year Dec 22 1923 in the Hall

The Back River Methodist Church burned down Feb 21 1928, the Sunday school and Church service was held in the Hall until a new church was built.

For many years lamps had to be used as electric lights come this far and also wood stoves were used for heating. water



JOSENHANS STORE 1913

Lyle A Becker

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So came to an end, another era in our history.

- - - - - - - - - - -

June 15, 1972

Our Heritage

The Story Of Josenhan's Corner



Here's Josenhan's Corner, as it is still known, in a 1913 photograph. The "Corner" is the intersection of Eastern Ave. and Back River Neck Rd.

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(Continued on Page 8 A)

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JOSENHANS STORE

JOSENHANS STORE was located at the corner of Back River Neck Rd. and Old Eastern Avenue. In 1907, Frederick W. Josenhans moved to Middle River and opened his store on this corner which became so well-known that almost everyone knew where JOSENHANS CORNER was located. It was situated at a point where anyone going to any of the shores along Back River Neck Road had to pass there first and in it, you could buy just about anything you might want.



F.W. JOSENHANS STORE AS IT LOOKED IN 1908

. . . famous store sold everything from nuts to bolts.



OLD GENERAL STORE TODAY IS A LAUNDROMAT

. . . located at Eastern Avenue and Back River Neck Road.

His Old Store Of Memories Is Priceless As Penny Candy

The News American September 29, 1976 #42

By EDWARD COLIMORE
News American Bureau

ESSEX — The pace was less frenzied then. Horse and buggies clacked across tree-lined roads paved with oyster shells.

And a dinner feast of crabs and fish was as close as Back River.

Farmers picked their vegetables from crops planted in neat rows near their homes.

But what they couldn't grow or catch, they bought at F.W. Josenhans' General Store, at what is today Eastern Avenue and Back River Neck Road.

It was 1907. And Frederick Josenhans had just purchased a building here and was renovating it with the help of his family.

"The Good Lord willing, I'll pay ya back tomorrow."

That customer's IOU was as good as cash on the barrel. It was the common seal of such a neighborly transaction.

And William Josenhans said it was good enough. Josenhans, 73, who followed his father's footsteps as proprietor of the store, said, "A man's word was everything.

"All of us in the neighborhood knew one another," he said. "People were God-fearing and respectful."

As business picked up, Josenhans helped his father and brothers construct a wooden porch around the store.

"We weren't accepted well at first," he said. "I was born in a house near the ol' Port Mission on South Broadway.

"And my parents had a small 'eating saloon' — or what we would call a restaurant today — for the seafaring people in Baltimore. My grandmother came here from Germany in the late 1800s and our family had worked in the cities.

"So as far as Essex people were concerned, we were city folk and they didn't like that. I'll never forget the time we had to put out a fire somebody started at the store.

"It didn't do much damage but it scared us a little — let me tell ya!"

Despite the shaky reception, the Josenhans soon fit into the conservative, rural community.

"We sold everything," Josenhans said. "And I mean everything from soup to nuts.

"We had coal, kerosene, clothes, hardware, meats and groceries and even patent medicines. And, oh yeah, there was a big barrel of pickles and penny candy.

"The neighbors used to come by and sit around and talk about things. Sometimes it (the topic of conversation) would be President (Woodrow) Wilson, other times maybe the man down the way.

"Our store was something like the supermarkets today except we also sold liquor, too. We had Fred Bauernschmidt's Beer."

Josenhans said Bauernschmidt was the first man in the area to own an automobile.

"He rode it right up to our store," he said. "Soon, you saw less horses and buggies and more cars.

"When that happened, my family bought an above-ground gas tank and sold gas to the new motorists."

Moving with the times helped keep the small corner store alive.

Josenhans, who lives in the 1500 block Eastern Ave., worked in the store for nearly 60 years.

"I could go on and on about the way things were," he said reminiscing.

"I remember paying $1.50 a month for a telephone, listening to the radio 'Fireside Chats' with President (Franklin) Roosevelt and the WPA (Work Progress Administration) road jobs near the store."

But Josenhans recalls the changes in the growing subdivision most of all. Road improvements were among many factors that rearranged the face of the once-rustic community.

"New roads were put in and for a while things were okay," Josenhans said. "In 1942, we made enough to build a brick building.

"After that, concrete islands were added, making it more difficult to get to the store. The traffic — and the people — just seemed to pass us by.

"From 1957 to 1967, business was really bad, so we decided to rent it out to a boat dealer. Then in 1972, we sold the place to a man who turned it into a laundromat."

But Josenhans, who lives a block from the store, said managing the small business was worth it all.

"I'm old now, but if I had it to do over again, I would," he said.

July 11, 1972

Dear Mrs. Baumgartner,

Enclosed are two pictures I thought you would like to have for the album.

The man with the horse is Charles Clement- called Boston as he came from there He was the first zebra trainer in the Ring ling brothers circus and when he came to work for my family he trained our horses as you can see in the picture with part of the wagon shed in back of the horse and one of the wagons to the right.

In the other picture is Addison Ingram, called Ad for short, he took care of the ice house sold Beer and also the flower gardens.

when Boston died some of his friends from the circus hired a limousine to go to the funeral and my mother took care of the funeral expenses as she did with all the help.

Let me know if you like the pictures and if you can use them.

Sincerely
Mrs. Miller.

P.S. I am sending you the picture and story of Mr. & Mrs. Hamburg's wedding anniversary.



CHARLES CLEMENT- HE WAS THE FIRST ZEBRA TRAINER IN THE RING LING BROTHERS CIRCUS THEY CALLED HIM BOSTON



ADDISON INGRAM- HE TOOK CARE OF THE ICE HOUSE AND BEER AND ALSO THE FLOWER GA... THEY CALLED HIM AL FOR SHORT

...d, Christmas
snow. The snowy Chri...
...ys here, however, are few.
This year has been so mild tha
few parts of the country are likely to
have a white Christmas.

WEDDING RE-ENACTED AFTER FIFTY YEARS

The wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Homberg of Stemmers Run was re-enacted last night at their golden wedding ceremony, celebrated at the Rossville Academy, Eastern avenue and Back River Neck road. Mr. Homberg is seventy-one and Mrs. Homberg sixty-eight.

In memory of the event a baptismal font was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Homberg to St. John's Lutheran Church, Essex.

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WEDDING REENACTED AT GOLDEN JUBILEE

Stemmers Run Couple Then Entertain Guests At Reception And Dance.

Sun 12/22/43

A wedding ceremony which took place 50 years ago was reenacted last night at the Rossville Academy, Eastern avenue and Back River Neck road. The occasion was the golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Homberg, who have lived at Stemmers Run for 39 years and are among the oldest inhabitants of that district. Mr. Homberg is 71 years old. Mrs. Homberg is 68.

The ceremony was repeated in detail as it was originally. Mrs. Mary Kahler, Raspeburg, was bridesmaid, and Charles Schultz was best man, as they were 50 years ago, when the first ceremony was performed at the First German United Evangelical Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Homberg, in memory of the event, presented a baptismal font to St. John's Lutheran Church, Essex. Addresses were made by the Rev. William Batz, pastor of the German United Evangelical Church; the Rev. J. C. Twele, pastor of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, and the Rev. C. F. W. Hartlage, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church. After the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Homberg entertained more than 400 guests at a reception and dance.

June 15, 1972

Our Heritage

The Story Of Josenhan's Corner



Here's Josenhan's Corner, as it is still known, in a 1913 photograph. The "Corner" is the intersection of Eastern Ave. and Back River Neck Rd.

BY HELEN B. BAUMGARTNER

Let me begin by saying that I wouldn't be able to write this or any article on the history of this section of Baltimore County without the help and cooperation of the people who lived here at the turn of the century and during the early 1900's. We sincerely appreciate it, for without their help, the interesting and poignant details of life at that time would be lost. The information in the following story was given us by Mrs. Irene Josenhans Milke.

It was in October 1907 that Frederick W. Josenhans bought the Walters Brothers (William and Fred) corner. It had been sold at public auction in order to settle the estate as both of the brothers had died. The oldest part of the building was built in the 1880's and was put together with wooden pegs. Until the death of the brothers, it was known as Walters' Post Office. The Post Office was moved to Rossville and then to Stemmers Run.

On December 1, 1907, Mr. Josenhans opened the store at the corner of Eastern Avenue and Back River Neck Road. It wasn't long before it became known as Josenhans Corner and, to this day, is shown that way on maps of Baltimore County. The 1500 block of Eastern Avenue and part of the 1400 block were all woods at that time, and was first used as a pasture for the horses. Then Mr. Josenhans had it leveled and made a ball park for the Josenhans' boys and the other boys in the community who called themselves the "Dixies". Today, eight houses stand on this ground - all belonging to one family - The Josenhans.

Josenhans Hall was built in 1910 and was called Rossville Academy. Dancing classes were held upstairs by Herbert Feldpusch and later by Mr. Elton who also had a dancing school in Highlandtown. Young people came from miles around in horse and buggys. Some even walked as there wasn't always means of transportation.

The Hall was used for suppers, banquets, meetings and entertainments. Both the Democratic and Republic Clubs held their meetings here. On December 22, 1923, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Homberg celebrated their 50th Anniversary in the Hall and when Back River Methodist Church burned down on February 26, 1928, they used it for their services until the new church was built. The downstairs of the building was used as a stable for the ten horses belonging to the Josenhans. Farmers and travelers also kept their horses in the stable overnight.

Eastern Avenue, in the days of the horse and buggys, was made of oyster shells and it was a pleasure to drive along because of the fine farms and parks. The business places were operated by families and were called roadhouses. Two of the parks, Hall's and Lawrences', had large groves where, in the summer, they served fish sandwiches and a glass of beer for 5 cents each. Harvey's and Mitchells's were opposite Hall's. Mitchell had a

The Story Of Josenhan's Corner

(Continued from 3 A)

him near the fire. She saw he was dying and asked if he wanted a minister or a priest. He said he would like to have a priest, so Mrs. Josenhans sent for Father Connolly from Mt. Carmel. Father Connelly was an elderly grey-haired man and he looked like a picture walking along the car tracks in the snow with his two dogs. He gave the man the last rites of the church before he passed away. Since no one ever knew who the old man was or from where he had come, the County took charge of the body.

During the flood of August 1933, boats were washed up on top of the car tracks over Back River and the bridge was condemned. The last car that came over was half full of water and the occupants didn't know how they ever got across as the water was up to the seats. A piano was washed off Pleasure Island at Bay Shore all the way around the bay to Porters Bar and a new house was washed overboard at Bowleys Quarters. The streetcars ran as far as Back River Bridge and buses were used to bring the people to Middle River until the new (and current) bridge was built.

Frederick Josenhans died on December 2, 1923 and his wife died on July 15, 1935. After that, the store was run by the remaining sons and daughters. In 1968, after over 60 years of service to the public on the same corner, the Josenhans closed their doors due to deaths and ill health.

So came to an end, another era in our history.

The RELAXER

As I remember... Josenhans' narrative continues description of area in early 1900's

(Editor's note: John Josenhans' narrative resumes, picking up the description of the area near Eastpoint as it was in the early 1900's.

Next week, in the final installment, he tells of his days at Back River School which was then located across the street from its present site. He also touches on the subject of politics.)

By JOHN JOSENHANS
Edited by Jackie Dimeler

Then was the Moffitt car barn where the streetcars were kept (later owned by Charlie Irish Chevrolet). At the bottom of the hill was a nice stream and a home was at the head of the stream. It looked like a storybook setting. The place was called Silver Lake and John Lowrey built a home across from the Woodbine Hotel.

Above what is now Rolling Mill, was

The shell roads were being replaced by tar roads built up from slag or waste coal from the rolling mills. A few autos started to come out then and the sewage plant was completed and city water started coming out. Essex started to develop.

Back River Neck and Patapsco Neck were known as the spinach market of the east. Then came a way, spinach and several dairy farms were taken over by the government to build Fort Holabird. The other farmers raised a lot of pigs from the kitchen slop from Holabird.

During World War I, everyone rallied to the cause. When we entered the war, I was in 6th grade at Back River School. My older sister and other teenaged girls and older, held dances in the building in back of our old store, to raise money to send things to the local boys in camps overseas.



Margaret Ave. had no paved road in 1923. The old fire and police station is shown in the background.



exchange was.

You used the old crank phone and if you didn't know the number, the operator knew them all. All we had were two repair men.

On the right on Old North Point Rd., was Vandermast Tavern. On the other side was Vandermast store and Klessman Plumbing. Then on the hill was George Lawrence's Park and tavern and some florist and across the road was Oak Lawn cemetery and Loeblein Marble Works (both still there).

Then there was Cherry Hill or Russ Hill and at the bottom of the hill was the fireworks store across from what was later Crosse and Blackwell.

Farther across the city line came Bay View Hospital (now City). Across from there was a distillery which was later torn down.

The old power house which supplied electric for the streetcars is now a bank. As I was told, the old city line went to East Ave., near Patterson Park. I don't know what year the city took over from the county, they called it annexation, but they came out as far as Graceland Park, where Crosse and Blackwell is.

The times began to change. We then got our fire protection from Canton station with horse drawn wagons. We had occasion to need them one time and, I hope I'm not exaggerating, but I think they took 30 minutes (averaging four minutes per mile). I know they had to walk the horses around for quite a while for them to cool off.

The police and firemen in those days deserve a lot of credit. They were from people of all trades. The firemen had at night, 14 hours, and in the day, 10 hours, at $60 per month, I think, with two days off a month.

The police worked 12 a.m. to 12 p.m. at $60 per month. Whe we got the Essex station (in 1919) it was just in time. The sewerage and water were being extended down Eastern Avenue and roads were being improved as autos were starting to come into use. Naturally, a different type of people started to travel the roads and Essex started to mushroom.

Dancing was also taught there.

Anything pertaining to Germany was taboo at that time. They went to far that you couldn't say sauerkraut you had to say Liberty cabbage. The cartoon, the Katzenjammer Kids was changed to the Captain and the Kids. German St. in the city was changed to Redwood St. That was just an example of the times in war. We were fighting the Kaiser then.

I think it was sometime during the war that prohibition came in. (Editors note: Prohibition began in 1919, began to be enforced in 1920, and was repealed by FDR in 1932). At our store, we sold malt and hops for 50 cents a can and bottles and caps for people who made home-brew. Then the big bootleggers came in and we had quite a few stills in the Back River Neck area. The bootleggers never bothered anyone but their own if they infringed on their territory.

I saw quite a few people shot by rival gangs and in front of Josenhans' store, they had a shoot-out. A man was left lying dead on a nearby tavern porch and the next morning we looked the store over and found several bullets in the shutters which were always shut at night after business hours.

I had occasion to know quite a few bootleggers were caught by county police but they didn't care because they paid a small fine and spent maybe thirty days in jail at Towson. But they tell me, the jail was like a country club. The bootleggers were let out in the daytime and they could roam around the town or elsewhere, just so they came back at night to be locked up until morning.

Now, most of the ones caught were small fry. The still operators who very seldom came near the stills paid the families of these prisoners while in jail.

Now, things began to change. The federal government sent revenue agents to take over and soon they caught some of the big shots, the owners. The revenuers had them put away for six to thirty months for selling untaxed liquors. The depression was in full swing by then and people who never thought they would do it, were helping the bootletters, to earn a few dollars.



The view from the fire department tower in 1923 showed the view south on Margaret Ave.



Vigilant Fire Department displayed it's first motorized truck. Vigilant Savings and Loan later took over the location.